



Gate City Immigrant Initiative

June 28, 2017

9:00AM – 10:30AM

Nashua City Hall Auditorium

Gate City Immigrant Initiative is a subcommittee of the Nashua Cultural Connections Committee.

Present: Martha Alvarado, Sam Cooper-Wall, Dominique Boutaud, Sylvia Gale, Pastor Rich Cullen, Donna Marceau, Mark Hasbacka, Shirley Woodward, Carlos Camacho, Kayla O'Brien, Gisell Tejada, Bobbie Bagley, Adelina Hernandez, Lauren Osowski (co-chair), Jenn Hosking (co-chair)

Commenced at 9:00am

1. Call to Order/Introductions

2. Co-Chair updates

- Lauren recapped the World Refugee Day celebration at the Adult Learning Center on July 20th. It was a great celebration with local speakers, letters of support from congressional representatives as well as participation from the mayor's office.
- Fall symposium update: the save the date has been distributed, registration will open mid-August.
- The Endowment for Health has an opportunity grant we can apply for in December that funds projects ranging in cost from \$1,000 to \$20,000. This is a competitive grant and a project that focuses on health and refugees fits in with the Endowment's current area of interest. Ideas brainstormed include: specialized training for service providers on how to support immigrants with mental health issues (as a follow up to the fall symposium), training for volunteer community case workers to assist with tasks such as opening mail, attending doctor's appointments, etc, workshop series for refugees at the community center or library focused on diabetes or mental health issues. Bobbie suggested feedback gathered from the symposium evaluation can be used to define a focus for future trainings and/or the grant application. The group will continue to brainstorm and discuss options at future meetings.

3. Cultural Navigators update

- Adelina Hernandez shared a new navigator training is scheduled for July. Currently 14 volunteers, representing multiple countries, plan to attend. There are approximately 7 navigators still active from the first training.

4. Resettlement Agency update

- Ascentria – Shirley Woodward discussed the recent announcements regarding the federal travel ban. Resettlement agencies are still working to define some of the language used and how it will effect refugees already in the pipeline as well as those waiting to begin the process. They currently have 23 instances (9 cases) that have been assured but do not have plane tickets yet. These cases are Congolese and Rohingya so they will be placed in Nashua when they come.

Ascentria	May	June
DRC/Congo	1 (Concord) 3 (Nashua)	5 (Concord)
Burma	15 Concord	
Rohingya		4 (Nashua)

5. Member updates

- Martha announced the Latino-American festival on Sunday, August 6th 12-6pm at St. Aloysius of Gonzaga Parish parking lot. She also shared plans for a prayer vigil in support of immigration on July 20th at 2pm, St. Aloysius of Gonzaga Parish.
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- Donna reminded everyone of the [Meals for Kids program](#) running this summer. Volunteers are needed and can register on the program [website](#).
 - Details: Six different non-profits, including the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter, and the Mayor's Office are working together to end childhood hunger in Nashua. Our pilot program will provide easy access to meals at various locations around the Crown Hill, Dr. Crisp Elementary School area. The program will run from June 22nd through August 28th. We'll need approximately 100 volunteers to commit to 1 1/2 - 2 hour shifts at meal times to distribute meals at various pick-up locations.
- Donna also mentioned the Employment Connect program scheduled for September 20th, 11-2pm at St. Patricks Church on Main Street. Bins will soon be out around town to collect clothing donations appropriate for interviews.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2017 – 9:00 AM-10:30 AM at Nashua City Hall Auditorium